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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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10/031,142	11/09/2001	Charles A. Eldering	T711-14	8140

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EXAMINER
TRAN, HAI V

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2623	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/09/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

PTOL-90A (Rev. 10/06)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/031,142	ELDERING, CHARLES A.
Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Hai Tran	2623	

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address* --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>03 October 2006</u>.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-199</u> is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) <u>1-116</u> is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>117-199</u> is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/13/2006</u>.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 117-199 have been considered but

are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 117-119, 122-124, 127-138, 143-144, 146-151, 153-156, 159-165, 167-171

and 192 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bryant (US

5652615) in view of Hjelsvold et al. (US 6546555).

Claim 117, Brian discloses a method for presenting targeted advertisements

in a telecom system, the method comprising:

Forming group for reception of signals for the telecom system (see Fig. 1 with

various groups and subgroups is formed and Fig.8, Col. 6, lines 65-Col. 7, lines 17)

Forming a plurality of subgroups for the group (see Fig. 1 with various groups

and subgroups is formed and Fig.8, Col. 6, lines 65-Col. 7, lines 17);

Assigning a subgroup address to each subgroup (see Fig.1 for street box as subgroup address);

Receiving a program stream (met by the headend 140 that receives a program stream from satellite 120);

Selecting one or more targeted advertisements for a 1st subgroup (Fig. 3; Col.4, lines 37-56; Col. 5, lines 23-25);

Assigning an advertisement identifier to each of the targeted advertisements (see Fig. 3);

Creating a relationship between the subgroup address and the one or more advertising identifiers (see fig. 5, Col. 6, lines 65-Col. 7, lines 17); and

Transmitting the program stream and the targeted advertisements selected for the 1st subgroup to the 1st subgroup (see Fig. 1, el. 170),

Bryant does not clearly discloses "wherein the 1st subgroup does not receive targeted advertisements corresponding to any other subgroup"

Hjelsvold discloses groups/subgroups do not receive the same additional video data from same program stream (see Fig. 15, Col. 9, lines 50-61). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Bryant with the teaching of Hjelsvold to have two different versions using the same video content stream that carry different promotional sequence, as taught by Hjelsvold, so to provide a filtering that is based on the user choice/preference/capability (Col. 3, lines 2-5). Moreover, provide a tool to merchant to prepare the content for filtering by categorizing and defining the amount of

promotional information to insert and the rules used to control insertion of

promotional information to a particular user (Col. 3, lines 23-32).

Claim 118, "selecting one or more targeted advertisements for a second

subgroup and transmitting the program stream and the advertisements selected for

the second subgroup to the 2nd subgroup, wherein the 2nd subgroup does not

received targeted advertisement corresponding to any other subgroup" is further met

by the above analysis of claim 117.

Claim 119, "wherein the transmitting to the 1st subgroup and the transmitting

to the 2nd subgroup are performed simultaneously" is further met by Bryan (see Fig.

1, el. 170) in view of Hjelsvold.

Claim 122, Bryan further discloses wherein the subgroups are based on cable

nodes (see Fig. 3, Col. 5, lines 23-39).

Claim 123, Bryan further discloses wherein the subgroups are formed by

transmitting an MPEG signal over a cable TV network (Col. 5, lines 48-65 and Col.

6, lines 46-51).

Claim 124, Bryant further discloses wherein the subgroups are based on

demographic attributes (Fig. 2 and 8; Col. 4, lines 15-32; Col. 8, lines 49-52);

Claim 127, "wherein the transmitting includes multiplexing the program

stream and the selected targeted advertisements at a centralized point to create a

presentation stream" is further met by Bryant (Fig. 4-6, Col. 5, lines 48-65 and Col 6,

lines 46-51) in view of Hjelsvold.

Claim 128, "wherein the multiplexing is performed in real-time" is further met by Bryant (Fig. 2; Col. 4, lines 10-20) in view of Hjelsvold.

Claim 129, "wherein the selected targeted advertisements are stored temporarily in a storage for insertion at a later time" is further met by Bryant (Col. 3, lines 25-53) in view of Hjelsvold.

Claim 130, "wherein the program stream comprises one or more empty segments and during multiplexing the selected targeted advertisements are inserted in the empty segments" is further met by Bryant ("fill" segment in which ads is inserted ; Col. 5, lines 23-37) in view of Hjelsvold.

Claim 131, "wherein the program stream comprises one or more default advertisements and during multiplexing the default advertisements are substituted with the selected targeted advertisements" is met by Bryant (Figure 8, where segment b is a default advertisement provided by BC 810) in view of Hjelsvold.

Claim 132, "inserting the selected targeted advertisements in the program stream at a client side" is met by Bryant (Figure 3; See Col 5, Lines 23-39) in view of Hjelsvold.

Claim 133, "wherein the client side is provided with the insertion time and the identification of the selected target advertisements" is met by Bryant (Figure.2; See Col 4, Lines 25-28) in view of Hjelsvold.

Claim 134, "wherein the program stream comprises one or more empty segments and during multiplexing the selected targeted advertisements and the identification of these empty segments is transmitted to the client side " is further met

by Bryant ("fill" segment in which ads is inserted ; Col. 5, lines 23-39) in view of

Hjelsvold.

Claim 135 is analyzed with respect to claim 131.

Claim 136, "wherein n program streams are combined with m advertisement

streams resulting in p presentation streams, wherein p is greater than n" is further

met by Bryant (Col. 6, lines 55-Col 7, lines 16 and Fig. 8) in view of Hjelsvold.

Claim 137, "wherein the program stream is transmitted as a 1st digital signal

and the targeted advertisements are transmitted as a 2nd digital signal" is further met

by Bryant (Col. 4, lines 20-25 and Fig. 2) in view of Hjelsvold.

Claim 138, "wherein the 1st digital signal is transmitted to the whole group and

the 2nd digital signal is transmitted only to a subgroup" is further met by Bryant (Col.

6, lines 55-Col 7, lines 16 and Fig. 8) in view of Hjelsvold (see Fig. 15, Col. 9, lines

50-61).

Claim 143, "wherein the signals are cable based video signal" is further met

by Bryant, as discussed in claim 117.

Claim 144, "wherein the signals are broadcast based video signal" is further

met by Bryant, as discussed in claim 117.

Claims 146, "wherein the targeted advertisements are inserted into the

program stream based on the advertisement identifiers" is further met by Bryant

(Col. 6, lines 55-Col 7, lines 16 and Fig. 8) in view of Hjelsvold .

Claim 147, "wherein the insertion occurs at the centralized point" is further

met by Bryant (see Fig. 1) in view of Hjelsvold .

Claim 148, "wherein the insertion occurs at a local end" is further met by

Bryant (see Fig. 1 with STB 200) in view of Hjelsvold .

Claims 149-150 and 153 are analyzed with respect to claim 117 and 127.

Claim 151 is analyzed with respect to claim 119.

Claim 154, "wherein the subgroups are based on cable nodes" is analyzed

with respect to claim 122.

Claim 155 is analyzed with respect to claim 123.

Claim 156 is analyzed with respect to claim 124.

Claim 159 is analyzed with respect to claim 128.

Claim 160 is analyzed with respect to claim 129.

Claim 161 is analyzed with respect to claim 130.

Claim 162 is analyzed with respect to claim 131.

Claim 163 is analyzed with respect to claim 136.

Claim 164 is analyzed with respect to claim 117.

Claim 165 is analyzed with respect to claim 117.

Claim 167 is analyzed with respect to claim 117.

Claim 168, "wherein the presentation of the targeted advertisements occurs

before the program, at the beginning of the program, after the program, at the end of

the program, or during the program" is further met by Bryant (see Fig. 3) in view of Hjelsvold.

Claim 169, " wherein the target advertisement presented to the 1st subgroup and the targeted advertisement presented to the 2nd subgroup are presented to the client members of respective subgroups at or about the same time within the program sequence" is further met by the by Bryant in view of Hjelsvold as discussed in claim 117.

Claim 170, "wherein each subgroup represents a target market" is further met by Bryant (Fig. 8; Col. 6, lines 65-Col. 7, lines 17) in view of Hjelsvold .

Claim 171, "wherein the subgroup are formed an at least one attribute from a set of attributes consisting of geographic, demographic, psychographic, and preference attributes." is further met by Bryant (Fig. 2 and 8; col. 4, lines 15-32 and Col. 8, lines 49-52) in view of Hjelsvold.

Claim 192 is analyzed with respect to claim 117

2. Claims 120, 121, 152, 166, 175-176, and 197 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bryant et al. (US 5652615) in view of Hjelsvold et al. (US 6546555), and further in view of Lakey et al. (US 6,078,954).

Claim 120, Bryant discloses subsets/subgroups of cable nodes are formed by profile of customer demographics based on age, income...

Bryant in view of Hjelsvold does not clearly disclose wherein the subgroups are formed by using multicast addresses.

Lakey discloses that the destination/address includes multicast

group/subgroup (groups/subgroups and multicast address; Fig. 3; Col. 3, lines 45-

65+; Col. 4, lines 50- 61). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary

skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Bryant in view of

Hjelsvold to form Category/SubGroup Definition; i.e. age, income using multicast

address/multicast group, as taught by Lakey, so the Headend/server could control

over which clients/viewers are to be placed within which multicast group (Col. 1,

lines 49-50) and also to take the advantage of the multicasting protocol of providing

continuous multicast of data wherein the data can include configure, control and

maintenance packets as well as informational data such as statistical data (Col. 3,

lines 8-11).

Claim 121 is analyzed with respect to claim 117.

Bryant in view of Hjelsvold does not clearly disclose wherein the subgroups

are formed by using multicast addresses.

Lakey discloses that the destination/address includes multicast

group/subgroup (groups/subgroups and multicast address; Fig. 3; Col. 3, lines 45-

65+; Col. 4, lines 50- 61). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary

skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Bryant in view of

Hjelsvold to form Category/SubGroup Definition; i.e. age, income using multicast

address/multicast group, as taught by Lakey, so the Headend/server could control

over which clients/viewers are to be placed within which multicast group (Col. 1,

lines 49-50) and also to take the advantage of the multicasting protocol of providing

continuous multicast of data wherein the data can include configure, control and

maintenance packets as well as informational data such as statistical data (Col. 3,

lines 8-11).

Claim 152, "wherein the subgroups are formed by using multicast addresses"

is analyzed with respect 120.

Claim 166 is analyzed with respect to claim 117 in which Bryant in view of

Hjelsvold does not clearly disclose wherein the 1st and 2nd subgroups are formed by

using multicast addresses.

Lakey discloses that the destination/address includes multicast

group/subgroup (groups/subgroups and multicast address; Fig. 3; Col. 3, lines 45-

65+; Col. 4, lines 50- 61). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary

skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Bryant in view of

Hjelsvold to form Category/SubGroup Definition; i.e. age, income using multicast

address/multicast group, as taught by Lakey, so the Headend/server could control

over which clients/viewers are to be placed within which multicast group (Col. 1,

lines 49-50) and also to take the advantage of the multicasting protocol of providing

continuous multicast of data wherein the data can include configure, control and

maintenance packets as well as informational

Claims 175-176, and 197 are analyzed with respect to claim 121.

3. Claims 125-126, and 157-158 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Bryant et al. (US 5652615) in view of Hjelsvold et al. (US

6546555), and further in view of Wilkins (US 5446919).

Claims 125 and 157, Bryant in view of Hjelsvold does not clearly disclose

wherein the subgroups are based on psychographic attributes.

Wilkins discloses wherein the forming includes forming the subgroups based

on at least some subset of demographic attributes, psychographic attributes (Col. 4,

lines 10-41 and Col. 8, lines 24-40). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one

of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Bryant in view

of Hjelsvold to group different subgroups based on psychographic attributes, as

taught by Wilkins, so to give to advertisers to shape the content of the advertisement

so as to appeal to the tastes/moods of the targeted audience (Col. 1, lines 28-40).

Claims 126 and 158, Wilkins further discloses wherein the subgroups are

based on product and brand usage attributes advertisement (Col. 4, lines 60-Col. 5,

lines 25).

4. Claims 120-121, 139-142, 145, 152-153, 166, 172-191, and 193-199 are rejected

under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bryant et al. (US 5652615) in

view of Hjelsvold et al. (US 6546555), and further in view of Monteiro et al. (US

5983005)

Claim 120, Bryant discloses subsets/subgroups of cable nodes are formed by

profile of customer demographics based on age, income...

Bryant in view of Hjelsvold does not clearly disclose wherein the subgroups

are formed by using multicast addresses.

Monteiro discloses the wherein the subgroups are formed by using multicast

addresses (see Fig. 5; Col. 5, lines 60-Col. 6, lines 67). Therefore, it would have

been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to

modify Bryant in view of Hjelsvold with the teaching of Monteiro so to allow targeted

commercial delivery based on the individual user. Thus, a substantial number of

targeted groups could be accommodated without n impractical increase in network

load (Col. 8, lines 25-18).

Claim 121 is analyzed with respect to claim 117.

Bryant in view of Hjelsvold does not clearly disclose wherein the subgroups

are formed by using multicast addresses.

Monteiro discloses the wherein the subgroups are formed by using multicast

addresses (see Fig. 5; Col. 5, lines 60-Col. 6, lines 67). Therefore, it would have

been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to

modify Bryant in view of Hjelsvold with the teaching of Monteiro so to allow targeted

commercial delivery based on the individual user. Thus, a substantial number of

targeted groups could be accommodated without n impractical increase in network

load (Col. 8, lines 25-18).

Claim 139, Bryant in view of Hjelsvold does not clearly disclose wherein the

1st digital signal is transmitted via a digital transport network over a 1st channel and

the 2nd digital signal is transmitted over a 2nd channel.

Monteiro discloses the 1st digital signal is transmitted via a digital transport

network over a 1st channel and the 2nd digital signal is transmitted over a 2nd channel

(see Fig. 5; Col. 7, lines 64-Col. 8, lines 12). Therefore, it would have been obvious

to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Bryant

in view of Hjelsvold with the teaching of Monteiro so to allow targeted commercial

delivery based on the individual user. Thus, a substantial number of targeted groups

could be accommodated without n impractical increase in network load (Col. 8, lines

25-18).

Claim 140, "wherein the 1st channel is a digital CATV channel and the 2nd

channel is a digital channel is a CATV system" is further met by Monteiro (see Fig. 5;

Col. 7, lines 64-Col. 8, lines 12).

Claim 141, is analyzed with respect to claims 117, 137 and 139 in which

Monteiro further discloses the targeted advertisement are transmitted as an audio

channel over the Internet (see Fig. 5; Col. 7, lines 64-Col. 8, lines 12).

Claim 142 is analyzed with respect to claim 141.

Claim 145 is analyzed with respect to claim 117 in which Bryant in view of Hjelsvold does not clearly disclose wherein the signals are Internet based streaming video signals.

Monteiro discloses wherein the signals are Internet based streaming video signals (see Fig. 5; Col. 7, lines 64-Col. 8, lines 12). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Bryant in view of Hjelsvold with the teaching of Monteiro so to allow targeted commercial delivery based on the individual user. Thus, a substantial number of targeted groups could be accommodated without n impractical increase in network load)Col. 8, lines 25-18).

Claim 152 is analyzed with respect 120

Claim 153 is analyzed with respect to 145.

Claim 166 is analyzed with respect to claim 117 in which Bryant in view of Hjelsvold does not clearly disclose wherein the 1st and 2nd subgroups are formed by using multicast addresses.

Monteiro discloses the wherein the subgroups are formed by using multicast addresses (see Fig. 5; Col. 5, lines 60-Col. 6, lines 67). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Bryant in view of Hjelsvold with the teaching of Monteiro so to allow targeted

commercial delivery based on the individual user. Thus, a substantial number of

targeted groups could be accommodated without n impractical increase in network

load (Col. 8, lines 25-18).

Claim 172 is analyzed with respect to claims 121, 145 and 166.

Claim 173, Bryant in view of Hjelsvold does not clearly disclose wherein the

plurality-targeted advertisements are delivered from a plurality of advertisement

servers.

Monteiro discloses the plurality-targeted advertisements are delivered from a

plurality of advertisement servers (see Fig. 1). Therefore, it would have been

obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to

modify Bryant in view of Hjelsvold with the teaching of Monteiro so to allow plurality

of targeted commercials could be delivered to users through plurality of advertisers.

Claims 174, 175 and 176 are analyzed with respect to claims 121, 145 and

166.

Claim 177, Monteiro discloses the plurality-targeted advertisements are

delivered from a plurality of advertisement servers (see Fig. 1).

Claim 178 is further analyzed with respect to claims 121, 145 and 166.

Bryant in view of Hjelsvold and Monteiro fails to disclose the use of a

DOCSIS channel for delivery of the multimedia stream.

Official Notice is taken that the use of a DOCSIS channel for delivery of

multimedia stream in the CATV system is notoriously well known in the art.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time

the invention was made to modify Bryant in view of Hjelsvold and Monteiro to use

DOCSIS channel for delivery of multimedia stream so to take the advantage of

DOCSIS standard so as to allow interoperability.

Claims 179 and 180, "inserting the targeted advertisements in the program

stream at the client side" and "wherein the targeted advertisements are inserted into

the program before the program is decoded" is further met by the disclosed of Bryant

STB.

Claim 181, "wherein the client side is provided with the insertion time and the

identification of the targeted advertisements" is further met by Bryant fig.2, Col. 4,

lines 20-28.

Claims 182-184 are analyzed with respect to claims 121, 145 and 166.

Claim 185 is analyzed with respect to claim 119.

Claim 186 is analyzed with respect to claim 147.

Claim 187 is analyzed with respect to claim 148.

Claim 188 is analyzed with respect to claim 168

Claim 189 is analyzed with respect to claim 147.

Claim 190 is analyzed with respect to claim 170.

Claim 191 is analyzed with respect to claim 171.

Claim 193, "wherein the content material comprises one or more default

advertisements and during the combining the default advertisements are substitute

with the targeted advertisements" is met by Bryant Fig. 8, Col. 6, lines 65-Col. 7,

lines 17.

Claim 194 is analyzed with respect to claim 177.

Claim 195, "wherein the subgroups are disjoint and contain no members in

common" is further met by Bryant Fig. 8, Col. 6, lines 65-Col. 7, lines 17.

Claims 196 and 197 are analyzed with respect to claims 121, 145 and 166.

Claim 198 is analyzed with respect to claim 177.

Claim 199, "wherein the subgroups comprise one ore more media players

(reads on Bryant' s STB or Monteiro 's user 40 receivers Col. 17, lines 33-40).

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in

this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** See MPEP

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37

CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any
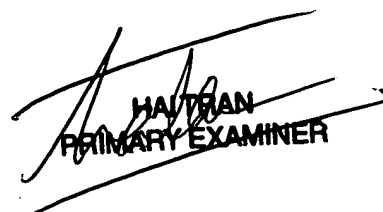
extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hai Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-7305. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher S. Kelley can be reached on (571) 272-7331. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

HT:ht
02/02/2007

HAI TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER